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CENTENNIAL PUBLICATION.

Mount Vernon,

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AND THE

Last Will and Testament

OF

Gen. Geo. Washington,

OF

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA,

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Designed by Charles W. Green.

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WASHINGTONIANA

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The American Mecca.

MOUNT VERNON,

HOME AND BURIAL PLACE OF

GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON.

In the Centennial year, when, as a nation, ranking among the first, we, the American people, invite to our land the people of all the world, and bid them welcome to this, the great American Republic; every thing connected with the Revolution, and especially its great leader, becomes objects of especial interest. As Philadelphia is the centre of attraction because the most fitting place in which to celebrate the Declaration of the American Colonists, is the place where that Declaration was first promulgated, and where the American Colonists only one hundred years ago declared themselves FREE. So in celebrating that eventful time, certainly the great leader, to whose genius, patriotism, and christian virtues is mainly due the success of the cause, should not be forgotten. That in a century the 3,000,000 colonists have grown to 45,000,000 that the 13 states now number 38, and that railroads, steamboats, and tel-

egraphs have been the result of American ingenuity, is certainly no good reason that he who founded the American Republic should be forgotten, that his remains should be neglected and almost overlooked within an hours ride of the Nations Capital, seems to prove that Republic are ungrateful.

Were a casual observer to glance at the half finished shaft that disgraces the reservation in Washington, he might imagine that the people of the present day cared no more for GEORGE WASHINGTON, the great champion of liberty, than they do for Benedict Arnold; but even in this fast age, when men are so busey money making and are so much taken up with the Centennial itself, that they appear to forget what we celebrate! thank God, we have yet, as in the days of the Revolution, women as true and brave as ever breathed, and who sacrificed much and are steadily working NOW to do reverence to the memory of WASHINGTON, and under their fostering care and energtic management the residence of our great chief has been rescued from the fate of becoming the prey of some greedy speculator or falling into decay.

Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union.

On the 17th of March, 1856, the General Assembly of Virginia granted a charter to Mrs. Cunningnam and other devoted women, under the above title, giving them the power to purchase and hold the Mount Vernon estate forever, but preventing them

from leasing, selling or otherwise disposing of the property without the consent of the State Legislature. The capital stock, not including the land or buildings thereon, was to consist of $200,000. This sum was raised principally through the exertions of Edward Everett, esq., who patriotically devoted much time to the cause, and entered the lecture field for this purpose. Many of the American women also became members of the Association by the payment of one dollar. The Association was organized principally through the efforts of Mrs. Cunningham and her daughter. The former was the Southern Matron, and the latter served, although for years an invalid and confined to her house, as Regent, until her death, when Madam Burgaman, of Philadelphia, was chosen in her stead.

The officers of the Association consist of the Regent, Vice Regent, Secretary, Treasurer and Superintendent.

The Regent makes all appointments, with the advice of the Grand Council. Annual Councils are now held in the Spring, at Mount Vernon.

Membership in the Association is had by the payment of one dollar, an additional dollar paid on or before the 22d of February entitles the member to vote in the annual meeting of that year.

Meetings, under the constitution, must be held annually, in the city of Washiugton, or at Mount Vernon, on the 22d day of February, or such other day as the Regent may fix upon as the time.

The Vice Regents are nominated by the Regent to the Grand Council. They, in connection with the Regent, constitute the managing board of the Association. Other officers are also nominated by the Regent.

The Grand Council can only be convened by the Regent, except in case of her death or absence from the United States, when three or more Vice Regents can convene it.

Local Boards are appointed by the Regent, and their rights and duties are prescribed by her, subject to the control of the Grand Council.

What has Been Done.

Under the management of the Association, $200,000 has been raised and paid to Col. J. A. Washington, and Mount Vernon to-day is dedicated by the loving care of woman to the memory of him who loved it so well, but who was ever ready at the call of duty to sacrifice, were it necessary, even life itself for duty.

What it is Proposed to do.

The ever efficient and energetic management of the Association now propose to raise $50,000 as an endowment fund, after which the grounds will be made free to every American or foreigner who may feel inclined to visit this hallowed shrine.

How to get to the Tomb.

Leaving the wharf at the foot of Seventh street, Washington city, or from King street wharf, Alexandria, on the steamer Arrow, at 10 a. m., under

the command of her genial commander, Captain Hollingshead, the pilgrim to the tomb glides quietly along the river of swans for an hour ere reaching his destiny, and enjoys a most pleasurable trip.

THE OBJECTS OF INTEREST

are: First the arsenal, on the grounds of which the old penitentiary once stood, where Mrs. Surratt and the conspirators were executed in 1865. All that now stands to mark the place is two handsome buildings on the north side of the grounds, which once were part of the penitentiary, and between the two is the spot where the execution took place.

The next thing to be seen is a full view of St. Elizabeth's Insane Asylum, and Geisboro, where the British landed in 1812, when they went to fight the battle of Bladensburg. Seven miles below Washington is

ALEXANDRIA.

This old town, with its quiet streets and which is going to decay, once vied with the cities of the Union as the principal shipping port of the States. Time changes all things, and Alexandria has been a sufferer in the past 100 years. First, she lost her shipping during the Revolutionary war, and again during the war of 1812, this important industry was swept away. For nearly fifty years she remained in the District of Columbia, and while there, remained, as it were, in a dormant condition. After the retrocession a new life sprang into existence, and the town promised to make rapid strides in commerce

and manufactures, but again in 1860 war brought new ruin to Alexandria, as well as to the whole South, and from this last blow she has never been able to recover. This sketch of the old town is given because the great Washington was so deeply interested in its welfare, and so intimately connected with its history that not to mention a few Revolutianary remeniscences of the town would be out of place. Here, on the corner of Fairfax and Cameron streets stands the Mansion Hotel, which has been built around the house in which General Braddock had his headquarters when starting on the memorable campaign of the French and Indian wars. On the corner of Cameron and Royal streets stands the old City Hotel, where Washington used to lodge. Three squares farther up we find old Christ Church, which was built in 1773, where Washington worshiped; and his pew, for which he paid the highest price, £30 and some shillings, is still in the same condition as when used by him except the old fashioned high back has been cut down. He was one of the first vestrymen of this church.

Washington Free School is also a relic of the munificence of the illustrious patriot, and is situated on Washington street. The bequest to this school can be found in the will published herewith.

Leaving Alexandria the Arrow passes forts Foote and Washington, the latter designed by the father of his country, and finally, after an hour and a half most delightful trip we are landed at the

and placed in charge of the genial Superintendent, Col. J. McHenry Hollingsworth. This gentleman is an old officer, and served in the Mexican war. He is a resident of Georgetown. and was appointed against has wishes by the Association as Superintendent. Col. H. is the right man in the right place, and has done more to relieve the Association from its pecuniary embarrassments than any one could have expected or hoped for, Since his appointment the Colonel has been engaged in the laudable purpose of creating means to meet the expenses of keeping up and improving the grounds and buildings. To give the reader some idea of what this gentleman has accomplished we append a complete list of the receipts and expenditues for the past few years :

	RECEIPTS.	EXPENDITURES.
1873	$6,072.34	$6,134.82
1874	7,956.43	7,901.82
1875	6,168.07	6,217.99

It is only fair to state that in 1874 $1,000 was furnished out of the receipts at Mount Vernon for the endowment fund.

To show something about the amount of travel to the tomb, we give the number of visitors for the first three months of 1876 : January, 550; February, 554; March, 689.

The receipts for the same length of time were : January, $466.09; February, $410.20; March, $701.18.

The receipts are obtained, first from the 50 cents paid by the steamer Arrow for every visitor carried down by her, and 25 cents received from other visitors. Col. Hollingsworth's first idea was to make the receipts equal the expenses, and to do this he immediately set to work to provide the ways and means as follows: He started a lunch room in the butler's house, where a substantial lunch can be had for the small sum of half a dollar. The receipts from this source have equaled $300 a month. To accommodate the increasing demand that it is though will be made this year, a large dining tent has been erected in the rear of the Superintendent's office, and it is hoped that a much larger sum may hereafter be realized from this source.

The sale of flowers is also a lucrative source of revenue, and have reached as much as $100 per month.

A dairy has been established, and during the Summer as much as fifteen gallons of ice cream has been sold per day.

Photographs and canes are also sold and add something to the fund.

Eighteen acres has been set in peaches, and it is hoped that this, together with strawberries and other fruits will enable the Colonel to meet his expenses and improve the place. Last Fall he raised 1,000 pouned of pork, and hopes to increase this year.

To fully carry out the designs of the managers, no less than $10,000 will be required every year and it does seem reasonable that the American people would appreciate the memory of Washington sufficiently to raise the $50,000 endowment needed for this purpose, so as to throw the tomb open to all free of cost.

The Endowment Plan.

The Association propose raising $50,000 as an endowment fund, the interest alone being used for the necessary expenses of keeping up the grounds and buildings. When this sum is raised Mount Vernon will be opened to all visitors without cost. Who can doubt the propriety of giving every pilgrim to this shrine of liberty free access to the grounds, the home and the grave of the father of his country.

Let every man and woman as they this year make the pilgrimage, give of their abundance one dollar, in aid of this fund, so that a poorer brother may be able to enjoy without price, a visit to this our Mecca.

The Grounds and Grave.

On leaving the boat Col. Hollingsworth leads the visitors first to the tomb, a massive brick vault which was built in accordance with directions left in Washington's will. The tomb was originally built to receive the body of Washington, but as it was found that wooden coffins decayed rapidly it was decided in 1837 to have a marble sarcophagus built for the body, and a patriotic citizen of Philadelphia, Mr.

John Struthers, asked and received permission to present a sarcophagus for the purpose, he also furnished a similar though plainer one for the remains of Mrs. Washinton. Up to this time three wooden coffins had disappeared before the destroyer time. Maj. Lewis, the surviving executor, under the will, accepted the generous offer of Mr. Struthers, and the sarcophagi were hewn from solid blocks of Pennsylvania marble. As it was ascertained that the dampness of the vault would soon discolor the beauty of the marble, the vault was enlarged so as to permit the coffins to stand in the dry air, and on Saturday October 1837 the illustaious remains were placed in the receptacle where they have ever since remained. The simple inscription :

WITHIN THIS ENCLOSURE

RESTS

THE REMAINS OF

GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON.

is found over the gate. To the right is seen the sarcophagus which contains his remains. It is surmounted by a handsome shield of the United States. (A soldier during the war climbed over the high iron fence, and broke off one of the talons of the eagle Below the shield is :

"WASHINGTON."

On the foot is :

By the permission of
Lawrence Lewis,

The surviving executor of
George Washington,
This sarcophagus
*Was presented by John Struther,
A. D., 1837.

On the left hand side of the vault is the other sarcophagus, which is of the same material, though perfectly plain. Upon it is:

MARTHA,
Consort of
WASHINGTON,

On the foot is inscribed:

Died May 21, 1801,
Aged 71 years.

Through the grating may be seen above the iron door leading to the vault, in black letters, on a marble slab:

"I am the resurrection and the life, and whosoeve believeth in Me shall not die.—St. John xi., 25-26.

A little sparrow has built her nest in the niche that contains the above slab, and seems to enjoy the safety and security of the position, as she is often seen unconcernedly watching the crowd as they eagerly peer through the iron gates.

The key of the vault has long since been thrown into the Potomac, so it is impossible to ever again enter it. On either side of the front of the tomb stand two massive monuments, enclosed within iron fences, and turning to the right, (with your back to the tomb,) you read:

*This line is obliterated.

Sacred
To the memory of
JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON,
Son of
Corbin and Hannah Lee,
Washington,
And nephew of
Judge Bushrod Washington,
Who appointed him one
Of his executors
And bequeathed him
Mt. Vernon,
When he died June 16, 1832,
Aged 43.

On the other monument we read,

*W*ithin the vault
Lie buried
The mortal remains
of
BUSHROD *W*ASHINGTON,
An associate justice
Of the Supreme Court
Of the U. S.
He died in Philadelphia
Nov'r. 26, 1829,
Aged 68 years.
By his side is interred
His devoted wife,
*W*ho survived her beloved
Husband but two days,
Aged 60.

On the same monument we find inscribed:

JUDGE *W*ASHINGTON,
*W*orthy son of
John Augustine *W*ashington,
And nephew of
General George *W*ashington,
*W*ho appointed him
One of his executors,
And bequeathed him
Mt. Vernon.

Turning from them we pass to the right of the vault and find a monument erected to the memory of

MRS. M. E. A. CONRAD
grand neice of *W*ashington,
and to
ELEANOR PARKE LEWIS
grand daughter of Mrs. and adopted daughter of General *W*ashington.

Fifty yards hence, and we are at the old tomb, and contemplating its ruins we are carried back to the day when Washington was buried, and the feeling displayed by a grateful people as they came in swarms from all directions to do homage to the honored dead. And again, as we look at this small abode for the great dead, (7 ft. wide by 12 feet deep,) now falling rapidly to decay, we are reminded of the attempt made in 1835 to steal the body of Washington. The attempt failed, as the bones of another member of the family were taken instead of his, they were soon recovered.

In looking back to the 14th of December, 1799, we can better imagine than describe the scene of that death bed; other writers have described it, and it would be out of place here but to bring more vividly before the mind of the pilgrim a short description of the funeral is given. In those days we had no railroads or steamboats, and those who would honor Washington and follow him to his last home must find their way to Mt. Vernon on foot or by such vehicles as chanced to be had, and on an occasion like that few vehicles were to be had, and many from the neighboring towns of Alexandria and Georgetown had to walk to the funeral, as did the Masonic procession from Alexandria.

The funeral procession formed in the following order, at 3 o'clock on the 16th :

The troops—horse and foot.

The Clergy,

Rev. Drs. Muir, Davis, Moffat and Addison.

The General's horse, with saddle, holsters and pistols.

Music.

Guards consisting of a detail from the Alexandria Blues, Captain Piercy.

Col. Simms,	General Geo. Washington, Departed This life On the 14th Dec. 1799. ÆT. 68.	Col. Gilpin,
Col. Ramsay,		Col. Marstella,
Col. Payne,		Col. Little,

Principal mourners:

The Corporation of Alexandria.

Alexandria Lodge, No. 22.

Dr. Elisha C. Dick, Worshipful Master.

Officers and members.

Brook Lodge, No. 47, (of Alexandria.)

Federal Lodge, No. 15, (of Washington, D. C.)

Rev. Thos. Davis conducted the Burial service. Dr. Dick conducted the Masonic ceremonies.

Three discharges of arms by infantry, artillery, and cavalry, paid a last tribute to the great leader. During the services minute guns were fired from a vessel in the river. The sun was setting as the mourning people turned from the tomb.

From this point we pass on to the Mansion, by the old stable, which has been repaired and recently re-covered. Entering the yard we find ourselves soon upon the porch which is 92 ft. 8 in. by 12 ft. 8 in. The flags of this porch which are now well worn were brought from England by Washington when he enlarged the Mansion. In front we have a fine view of the Potomac river in all its beauty. In passing back to the later days of the 18th. century, we can almost see the grand old gentleman as he stands upon the old porch, hat off, in return for the salute being paid by some passing craft; the vessel having passed we can imagine the feelings that filled his breast at the love of a nation shown in this and every other way. The summer house of which Lossing speaks has passed away, and the deer park to the left of the house is there no longer, but it is to be re-furnished with deer by Ex-Governor Walker of Virginia, and a gentleman from Montana has kindly promised to furnish some elk for the same purpose. Turning from the river we enter the large hall and follow our genial guide, Col. H., into the

EAST PARLOR.

Here are some old things belonging to the father of his country, incased; the main thing pointed out is the cast of Washington by Houdan. In this connection it may not be out of place to say that it is a popular error that Washington had a cast of his body made by the great French artist, for he did not

it was only his face; the real cast of the face is carefully preserved. Here also is the Masonic apron of Lafayette, and Washington's tripod. From this room we enter the largest room in the house, now known as the

NEW YORK ROOM.

In it is found the handsome marble mantle presented to Washington by Sam'l Vaughn, the model of the famous French Bastile, Eleanor Custis's harpsichord purchased for and presented to her as a wedding gift by Washington, at a cost of $1,000, and a copy after Trumbull's likeness of Washington by Lambdin of Philadelphia. From this room we enter

THE WEST PARLOR,

or Connecticut Room. Here we find Washington's sideboard, presented to the Association by Mrs. Gen. R. E. Lee, great grand-daughter of Mrs Washington. Here too is a picture of the attack on Carthagena, in which Lawrence Washington participated, serving under Admiral Vernon, and on his return to America named his home after him. Here too are Washington's liquor chest and camp equipage and some old chairs said to have belonged to him. Again we enter the passage and here we see on the wall a glass case, placed there by Washington himself, in which is the KEY OF THE BASTILE, sent him by Lafayette. We enter a small room in which is found nothing of note, next the dining room and thence into the Library and back into the council room, in which it is proposed to have the coat of arms of each state

put up; so far only Wisconsin and Maine have sent in their tribute.

On the second floor we find the Virginia room, or the room in which Washington died; in it is some old furniture and a table said to have been the one used to hold his medicines during his last illness. The bed in which he died is said to be in the posession of Gen. Fitz. Lee. On the third floor is the room in which Mrs. Washington died; it is not large but it was the only room in the house from which could be seen the tomb, and for this reason was chosen by Mrs. Washington and occupied by her until the time of her death. This is known as the Wisconsin room and is in charge of Mrs. Judge Mitchel, Vice Regent from that state; she has just had it handsomely refurnished in style. fac simile to that used by Mrs. Washington, the cost of the set of furniture which is covered with pure camel's hair cloth (the wood is mahogany) was $1,000. There are 5 rooms on this floor but none of the others are worthy of especial mention.

The principal room on the second floor besides the one in which Washington died is the New Jersey or Lafayette room, in which is to be seen the looking glass and dressing case used by the distinguished Frenchman during his visit to Mount Vernon: also a table the cover of which is handsomely worked with Masonic Emblems, said to have been presented by the ladies of the Revolution to Washington. Besides these are the Pennsylvania room in

which all the Furniture, except the bedstead is believed to have been Washington's. There are altogether, 18 rooms in the house; it was originally much smaller but was enlarged and greatly improved by the General in 1784-5.

The Lawn and Garden.

Leaving the Mansion at the rear door the Colonel leads the visitors to the right of the beautiful lawn, (which occupies about 20 acres,) towards the Greenhouse and Flower Garden; on the left we see the vegetable garden, passing the Superintendents room we approach the flower garden and find at the gate four beautiful trees, planted by the illustrious owner; two are ash and two poplar. Entering the garden we see the beds bordered by box 100 years old, planted under the direction of either the General or his wife. The beds in the Spring, are full of old fashioned flowers, and one can well imagine Mrs. Martha Washington, in the picturesque dress of a century ago, moving among the flower beds and directing the management of her garden, as was the wont of ye ladies of ye ancient time. Next we enter the Greenhouse, a new structure; the original building was destroyed by fire, when the Government was *generous enough* to appropriate $7,000 to have it rebuilt. In it however the only thing remaining that belonged to Washington is the stalk of the Sago Palm now 130 years old, there is now a young palm in existence raised from the original bulb. Two rooms of rare and beautiful plants and

flowers have been added under the management of Col. Hollingsworth. In the greenhouse is a fine grapery from which bunches weighing 1 ℔ have been taken and as many as $11.70 worth has been sold in one day. Seven hands are now employed in keeping up the place. Just inside the garden gate are four Calacanthus bushes, presented by Jefferson to Washington and planted and named by the latter after his four friends,

MADISON.	ADAMS.
MONROE	JEFFERSON

On either end of both gardens are to be seen octagonal shaped implement and seed houses, which tradition would have you believe were once erected as as a means of defence against the Indians but history tell a different story and the houses were erected for the more peaceful art of agricultural convenience. Turning again towards the house we see the Magnolia Grandiflora and the Coffee Tree from Kentucky, planted by the illustrious hero and thus become of interest to every pilgrim to the tomb.

There are many other items of interest in and around the place ever dear to the Americans; but in a short sketch like this the writer has huridly past by many things that could have been elaborated; the object of this book is more to serve as a *guide* for the Pilgrim than to tire him with sentiment or verbousness. If in its compilation any service has been rendered the able and efficient management, who from purely patriotic motives are laboring to add to its

permanency and its beauty, to keep back the ravages of old time, so that the patriot who visits the tomb in 1976 may find it as well, if not better preserved than now, then this little book has not been penned in vain.

REMEMBER

That to join the association costs *only one dollar* and it may be paid to the Regent, the Vice Regents or to Colonel Hollingsworth the genial superintendent.

Washington's Birth Place.

In an unpretending frame building in the county of Westmoreland, George Washington was born, a fire destroyed the house and Washington's farther removed while he was but a mere boy, to the Rappahannock farm near Fredericksburg, which he afterwards left to George in his will. The late Geo. W. Park Custis had erected in 1815 a piece of freestone on which was engraved:

Here,

On the 11th of February, 1732,

Geo. Washington

was born.

The record of his birth, in the hand writing of his farther, was found in the family bible as follows:

George Washington, son of Augustine and Mary his wife, was born ye 11th day of February, 1732, about *11 in the morning, and was baptised the 3d of April following: Mr. Beverley Whiting and Christopher Brooks, god fathers and Mrs. Mildred Gregory godmother.

*It was 20 years after Washington's birth that the Gregorian Calendar was adopted, hence we celebrate the 22nd instead of the 11th of February in remembrance of his birth.

Last Wills and Testaments

OF

Gen. Geo. Washington,

AND HIS CONSORT,

Mrs. Martha Washington,

OF

MOUNT VERNON,

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

Washington's Will.

In the name of God Amen.

I, George Washington, of Mount Vernon, a citizen of the United States, and lately President of the same do make, ordain and declare this Instrument, which is written with my own hand, and every page* thereof subscribed with my name to be my last Will and Testament, revoking all others.

Imprimus—All my debts, of which there are but few, and none of magnitude, are to be punctually and speedily paid, and the legacies hereinafter bequeathed are to be discharged as soon as circumstances will permit, and in the manner directed.

ITEM—To my dearly beloved wife, Martha Washington, I give and bequeath the use, profit and benefit of my whole estate, real and personal, for the term of her natural life, except such parts thereof as

*At the foot of every page (except one) of the original will, the autograph of the writer is found.

are specially disposed of hereafter,—My improved lot in the town of Alexandria, situated on Pitt and Cameron streets, I give to her and her heirs forever, as I also do my household and kitchen furniture of every sort and kind with the liquors and groceries which may be on hand at the time of my decease, to be used and disposed of as she may think proper.

ITEM—Upon the decease of my wife it is my will and desire that all the slaves which I hold in *my own right* shall receive their freedom To emancipate them during her life, would, tho' earnestly wished by me, be attended with such insuperable difficulties, on account of their intermixture by marriage with the dower negroes, as to excite the most painful sensations,—if not disagreeable consequences from the latter while both descriptions are in the occupancy of the same proprietor, it not being in my power under the tenure by which the dower negroes are held to manumit them———And whereas among those who will receive freedom according to this devise there may be some who from old age, or bodily infirmities, and others, who on account of their infancy, that will be unable to support themselves, it is my will and desire that all who come under the first and second description shall be comfortably clothed and fed by my heirs while they live, and that such of the latter description as have no parents living, or if living are unable or unwilling to provide for them, shall be bound by the court until they shall arrive at the age of twenty-five years, and in cases

where no record can be produced whereby their ages can be ascertained, the judgment of the court upon its own view of the subject shall be adequate and final. The negroes thus bound are (by their masters or mistresses) to be taught to read and write* and to be brought up to some useful occupation, agreeably to the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, providing for the support of orphans and other poor children—and I do hereby expressly forbid the sale or transportation out of the said Commonwealth of any slave I may die possessed *of*, under any pretence whatsoever—and I do moreover most positively and most solemnly enjoin it upon my executors hereafter named, or the survivors of them, to see that *this* clause respecting slaves and every part thereof be religiously fulfilled at the epoch at which it is directed to take place without evasion, neglect or delay after the crops which may then be on the ground are harvested, particularly as it respects, the aged and infirm, seeing that a regular and permanent fund be established for their support so long as there are subjects requiring it, not trusting to the uncertain provisions to be made by individuals.——And to my mulatto man, William (calling himself William Lee) I give immediate freedom, or, if he should prefer it (on account of the accidents which have befallen him and which have rendered him incapable of walking or of any active employment) to remain in the

*Owing to the laws of Virginia, this provision of the will could not be carried out.

situation he now is, it shall be optional in him to do so.—In either case, however, I allow him an annuity of thirty dollars during his natural life, which shall be independent of the victuals and *clothes* he has been accustomed to receive, if he *chooses* the last alternative, but in full with his freedom, if he prefers the first, and this I give him as a testimony of my sense of his attachment to me and for his faithful services during the Revolutionary war.

ITEM—To the Trustees, (Governors, or by whatsoever other name they may be designated,) of the academy in the town of Alexandria, I give and bequeath, in trust, four thousand dollars, or in other words, twenty of the shares which I hold in the Bank of Alexandria, towards the support of a free school established at, and annexed to the said academy, for the purpose of educating such orphan children, or the children of such other poor and indigent persons as are unable to accomplish it with their own means, and who in the judgment of the trustees of the said seminary, are best entitled to the benefit of this donation. The aforesaid twenty shares I give and bequeath in perpetuity—the dividends only of which are to be drawn for and applied by the said trustees for the time being, for the uses above mentioned, the stock to remain entire and untouched unless indications of a failure of the said bank should be so apparent, or discontinuance thereof should render a removal of this fund necessary, in either of these cases the amount of the stock here devised is

to be vested in some other bank or public institution whereby the interest may with regularity and certainty be drawn and applied as above.——And to prevent misconception, my meaning is, and is hereby declared to be that these twenty shares are in lieu of and not in addition to the thousand pounds given by a missive letter some years ago, in consequence whereof an annuity of fifty pounds has since been paid towards the support of this institution.

Item—Whereas by a law of the Commonwealth of Virginia, enacted in the year 1785, the Legislature thereof was pleased (as an evidence of its approbation of the services I had rendered the public during the Revolution—and partly, I believe in consideration of my having suggested the vast advantages which the community would derive from the extension of its inland navigation, under Legislative patronage) to present me with one hundred shares, of one hundred dollars each, in the incorporated company established for the purpose of extending the navigation of James River from tide water to the mountains; and also with fifty shares of one hundred pounds sterling each in the corporation of another company likewise established for the similar purpose of opening the navigation of the Potomac from tide water to Fort Cumberland; the acceptance of which, although the offer was highly honorable and grateful to my feelings, was refused, as inconsistent with a principle which I had adopted, and had never departed from, namely, not to receive pecuniary

compensation for any service I could render my country in its arduous struggle with Great Britain for its rights; and because I had evaded similar propositions from other States in the Union—adding to this refusal however an intimation that if it should be the pleasure of the Legislature to permit me to appropriate the said shares to *public uses*, I would receive them on those terms, with due sensibility—and this it having consented to in flattering terms, as will appear by a subsequent law and sundry resolutions, in the most ample and honorable manner, I proceed after this recital for the more correct understanding of the case to declare—

That as it has always been a source of serious regret with me to see the youth of these United States sent to foreign countries for the purpose of education often before their minds were formed or they had imbibed any adequate ideas of the happiness of their own, contracting too frequently not only habits of dissipation and *extravagence*, but principles unfriendly to Republican *government*, and to the true and genuine liberties of mankind, which thereafter are rarely overcome.——For these reasons it has been my ardent wish to see a plan devised on a liberal scale which would have a tendency to spread systematic ideas through all parts of this rising empire, thereby to do away local attachments and State prejudices as far as the nature of things would, or indeed ought to admit, from our national councils—Looking anxiously forward to the accomplishment

of so desirable an object as this is, (in my estimation) my mind has not been able to contemplate any plan more likely to effect the measure than the establishment of a university in a central part of the United States; to which the youth of fortune and talents from all parts thereof might be sent for the completion of their education in all the branches of polite literature in arts and sciences—in acquiring knowledge in the principles of politics and good government—and (as a matter of infinite importance in my judgement) by associating with each other and forming friendships in juvenile years, be enabled to free themselves in a proper degree from those local prejudices and habitual jealousies which have just been mentioned and which when carried to excess are never failing sources of disquietude to the public mind and pregnant of mischievous consequences to this country:—Under these impressions so fully dilated,—

ITEM—I give and bequeath in perpetuity the fifty shares which I hold in the Potomac Company (under the aforesaid acts of the Legislature of Virginia) towards the endowment of a university to be established within the limits of the District of Columbia, under the auspices of the general government, if that government should incline to extend a fostering hand towards it, and until such seminary is established, and the funds arising on these shares shall be raquired for its support, my further will and desire

is that the profit accruing therefrom shall whenever the dividends are made, be laid out in purchasing stock in the Bank of Columbia or some other Bank at the discretion of my Executors, or by the Treasurer of the United States for the time being uuder the direction of Congress, provided that Honorable body should patronize the measure. And the dividends proceeding from the purchase of such Stock is to be vested in more Stock and so on until a sum adequate to the accomplishment of the object is obtained of which I have not the smalest doubt before many years passes away even if no aid or encouragement is given by Legislstive authority or from any other source.

ITEM,—The hundred shares which I held in the the James River Company I have given and now confirm in perpetuity to and for the use and benifit of *LIBERTY HALL ACADEMY in the county of Rockbridge, in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

ITEM—I release, exeonorate and dischare the estate of my deceased brother, Samuel Washington for the payment of the money due to me for the land I sold to Philip Pendleton (lying in the county of Berkley) who assigned the same to him the said Samuel, who by agreement was to pay me therefor. And whereas by some contract (the purport of which was never communinicated to me) between the said Samuel and his son Thornton

Washington, the latter became possessesed of the aforesaid land without any conveyance having passed from me either to the said Pendleton, the said Samuel or the said Thornton and without any consid eration having been made, by which neglect neither the legal or equitable title has been alienated;—it rests therefore with me to declare my intentions concerning the premises.—And these are to give and bequeath the said land to whomsoever the said Thornton Washington (who is also dead) devised the same or his heirs forever, if he died intestate.—Exonerating the estate of the said Thornton, equally with that of the said Samuel from payment of the purchase money, which with interest agreeable to the original contract with the said Pendleton would amount to more than a thousand pounds. And whereas two other sons of my deceased brother Samuel, viz. George Steptoe Washington and Lawrence Augustine Washington were by the decease of those to whose care they were committed; brought under my protection, and in consequence have occasioned advances on my part for their education at college and other schools for their board *clothing* and other incidental expenses to the amount of near five thousand dollars over and above the sums furnished by their estate, *wch* sum may be inconvenient for them or their farther's Estate to refund.----I do for these reasons acquit them and the said Estate from the payment thereof.----My intention being that all accounts between

them and me and their father's Estate and me shall stand balanced.

ITEM—The balance due to me from the Estate, of Bartholomew Dandridge deceased, (my wife's brother) and which amounted on the first day of October, 1795, to Four hundred and twenty five pounds (as will appear by an account rendered by his deceased son, John Dandridge; who was the acting Executor of his father's will) I release and acquit from the payment thereof. And the negroes (then thirty three in number) formerly belonging to the said Estate who were taken in Execution, sold, and purchased in, on my account in the year ——— and ever since have remained in the possession and to the use of Mary, widow of the said Bartholomew Dandridge with their increase; it is my will and desire shall continue and be in her possesion, without paying hire or making compensation for the same for the time past or to come during her natural life, at the expiration of which, I direct that all of them who are 40 years old and upwards shall receive their freedom, all under that age and above sixteen shall serve seven years and no longer, and all under sixteen years shall serve until they are twenty five years of age and then be free. And to avoid disputes respecting the ages of any of these negroes they are to be taken to the Court of the County in which they reside and the judgement thereof in this relation shall be final and a record thereof made, which may be adduced as evidence at any time thereafter if disputes should

arise concerning the same. And I further direct that the heirs of the said Bartholomew Dandridge shall equally share the benefits arising from the services of the said negroes according to the tenor of this devise upon the decease of their mother.

Item—If Charles Carter who intermarried with my niece Bettie Lewis, is not sufficiently secured in the title to the lots he had of me in the town of Fredericksburg, it is my will and desire that my Executors shall make such conveyances of them as the law requires to render it perfect.———

Item.—To my nephew, Wm. Augustine Washington and his heirs (if he should conceive them to be objects worth prosecuting) and to his heirs a lot in the town of Manchester (opposite to Richmond) No. 265 drawn on my sole account and also the tenth of one or two hundred acre lots and two or three half-acre lots in the city and vicinity of Richmond, drawn in partnership with nine others, all in the lottery of the deceased William Bryd are given,—as is also a lot which I purchased of John Hood conveyed by William Willie and Samuel Gordon, Trustees of the said John Hood, numbered 139 in the town of Edenburg in the County of Prince George, State of Virginia.———

Item—To my nephew, Bushrod Washington I give and bequeath all the papers in my possession which relate to my civil and military administration of the affairs of thi0 Country:— I leave to him als

such of my private papers as are worth preserving;- and at the decease of my wife and before if she is not inclined to retain them, I give and bequeath my library of Books and pamphlets of every kind.

ITEM—Having sold lands which I possessed in the State of Pennsylvania and part of a tract held in equal right, with George Clinton, late Governor of New York, in the State of New York;—My share of land in the great Dismal Swamp, and a tract of land which I owned in the County of Gloucester; withholding the legal titles thereto until the consideration money should be paid—And having moreover leased and conditionlly sold, (as will appear by the tenor of the said leases) all my lands upon the Great Kanhawa and the tract upon Difficult Run in the county of Loudoun, it is my will and direction that whensoever the contracts are fully and respectively complied with according to the Spirit, true intent, and meaning thereof on the part of the purchasers, their heirs, assigns, that then and in that case conveyances are to be made agreeably to the terms of said contracts and the money arising therefrom when paid to be vested in Bank Stock, the dividends whereof, as of that also which is already vested therein, is to inure to my said wife during her life but the Stock its'elf is to remain and be subject to the general distribution hereafter directed.

ITEM—To the Earl of BUCHAN I recommit "The

Box made of the Oak that sheltered the Great Sir William Wallace after the battle of Falkirk" presented to me by his Lordship in terms too flattering for me to repeat, with a request "To pass it, on the event of my decease to the man in my Country who should appear to merit it best, upon the same conditions that have induced him to send it to me." Whether easy or not to select THE MAN who might comport with his Lordship's opinion in this respect, is not for me to say, but conceiving that no disposition of this valuable curiosity, can be more eligable than the re-commitment of it to his own cabinet agreeable to the original design of the Goldsmith's Company of Edinbugh, who presented it to him, and at his request, consented that it should be transferred to me; I do give and bequeath the same to his Lordship, and in case of his decease, to his heir with my grateful thanks for the distinguished honor of presenting it to me, and more especially for the favorable sentiments with which he accompanied it.

ITEM--To my brother Charles Washington I give and bequeath the gold-headed cane left me by Doct'r Franklin in his will——I add nothing to it because of ample provision I have made for his issue——"
——To the acquaintances and friends of my juvenile years, Lawrence Washington and Robert Washington of Chotank, I give my other two gold-headed canes, having my arms engraved on them, and to

each (as they will be useful where they live) I leave one of the spy glasses which constituted part of my equipage during the late war———To my compatriot in arms, and old and intimate friend Doct'r Craik, I give my Bureau (or as the Cabinet makers call it Tambour Secretary) and the circular chair an appendage of my study———To Doct'r David Stuart I give my large Shaving and dressing table and my Telescope———To the Reverend now Bryan Lord Fairfax I give a bible in three large folio volumes with notes, presented to me by the Right Reverend Thomas Wilson, Bishop of Sodor and Man ———To General de la Fayette I give a pair of finely wrought steel pistols taken from the enemy in the Revolutionary war———To my sisters in law Hannah Washington, and Mildred Washington;—To my friends Eleanor Stuart, Hannah Washington of Fairfield and Elizabeth Washington of Hayfield I give each a mourning Ring of the value of one hundred dollars———These bequests are not made for the intrinsic value of them, but as mementos of my esteem and regard———To Tobias Lear I give the use of the farm which he now holds in virtue of a lease from me to him and his deceased wife (for and during their natural lives) free from Rent during his life, at the expiration of which it is to be disposed of as hereafter directed———To Sallie B. Haynie (a distant relation of mine) I give and bequeath three hundred dollars———To Sarah Green

daughter of the deceased Thomas Bishop and to Ann Walker, daughter of John Alton, also deceased I give to each one hundred dollars, in consideration of the attachment of their father to me, each of whom having lived nearly forty years in my family.———To each of my nephews William Augustine Washington, George Lewis, George Steptoe Washington, Bushrod Washington, and Samuel Washington, I Give one of the sword or "cutteaux" of which I may die possessed, and they are to "chuse" in the order they are named.————These swords are accompanied with an injunction not to unsheath them for the purpose of shedding blood except it be for self defence or in defence of their Country and its rights, and in the latter case to keep them unsheathed, and prefhr falling with them in their hands to the relinquishment thereof.

And now,

Having gone through these specific devises, with the explanations for the more correct understanding of the meaning and design of them, I proceed to the distribution of the more important parts of my Estate, in manner following:

First—To my nephew Bushrod Washington and his heirs (partly in consideration of an intimation to his deceased father, while we were bachelors and he had kindly undertaken to superintend my Estate during my military services in the former war between Great Britain and France, that if I should fall

therein, Mt. Vernon (then less extensive in domain than at present) should become his property) I give and bequeath all that part thereof which is comprehended within the following limits—viz:—Beginning at the ford of Dogue Run near my mill and extending along the road and bounded thereby as it now goes, and ever has gone since my recollection of it, to the ford of little Hunting Creek, at the gum spring until it comes to a knowl opposite to an old road which formerly passed through the lower field of Muddy Hole Farm; at which, on the north side of the said road are three red or Spanish oaks marked as a corner, and a stone placed——thence by a line of trees to be marked rectangular to the back line, or outer boundary of the tract between Thomas Mason and myself,——thence with that line easterly (*now double* ditching with a post and rail fence thereon) to the run of Little Hunting Creek, thence with that run, which is the boundary of the lands of the late Humphrey Peake and *me*, to the tide water of the said creek, thence by that water to Potomac River, thence with the River to the mouth of Dogue Creek, and thence with the said Dogue Creek to the place of beginning, at the aforesaid ford, containing upwards of Four thousand acres, be the same more or less, together with the Mansion House, and all other buildings and *improvements* thereon.——

Secondly—In consideration of the consanguinity between them and my wife, being as nearly related

to her as to myself, as on account of the affection I had for,and the obligation I was under to their father when living, who from his youth had attached himself to my person and followed my fortunes through the vicissitudes of the late Revolution, afterwards devoting his time to the superintendence of my private concerns for many years whilst my public employments rendered it impracticable for me to do it myself, thereby affording me essential services, and always performing them in a manner the most filial and respectful: for these reasons I say; I give and bequeath to George Fayette Washington and Lawrence Augustine Washington and their heirs my Estate east of little Hunting creek lying on the River Potomac, including the farm of 360 acres, leased to Tobias Lear, as noticed before, and containing in the whole, by deeds, Two thousand twenty seven acres, be it more or less which said Estate, it is my will and desire should be equitably and advantageously divided between them, according to quantity, quality and other circumstances when the youngest shall have arrived at the age of twenty-one years, by three judicious and disinterested men, one to be chosen by each of the brothers and the third by these two. In the mean time if the termination of my wife's interest therein should have ceased, the profits, arising therefrom are to be applied for their joint uses and benefit.

Third—And whereas it has always been my inten-

tion, since my expectation of having issue has ceased, to consider the grandchildren of my wife in the same light as I do my own relations and to act a friendly part by them, more especially by the two whom we have reared from their earliest infancy, namely, Eleanor Parke Custis and George Washington Parke Custis; and whereas the former of these hath lately intermarried with Lawrence Lewis, a son of my deceased sister Betty Lewis, by which union the inducement to provide for them both has been increased, Wherefore I give and bequeath to the said Lawrence Lewis and Eleanor Park Lewis, his wife, and their heirs, the residue of my Mount Vernon Estate, not already devised to my nephew Bushrod Washington comprehended within the following description,—viz:—all the land north of the Road leading from the ford of Dogue Run to the Gum Spring as described in the devise of the other part of the tract to Bushrod Washington until it comes to the stone and three red or Spanish oaks on the knowl,——thence with the rectangular line to the back line (between Mr. Mason and *me*)——thence with that line westerly, along the new double ditch to Dogue Run, by the tumbling dam of my mill,——thence with the said Run to the ford aforementioned; to which I add all the land I possess west of the said Dogue Run and Dogue Creek, bounded Easterly and Southerly thereby——together with the Mill, Distillery and all other houses and improvements on the

premises, making together about two thousand acres, be it more or less.

Fourth—Actuated by the principle already mentioned, I give and bequeath to George Washington Parke Custis, the grand son of my wife and my ward, and to his heirs, the tract I hold on Four Mile Run in the vicinity of Alexandria, containing one thousand two hundred acres more or less;——and my entire Square, number twenty-one, in the City of Washington.———

Fifth.—All the rest and residue of my Estate, real and personal, not disposed of in manner aforesaid—in whatsoever consisting——wheresoever lying, and whensoever found——a schedule of which, as far as is recol'ected, with a reasonable estimate of its value is hereunto annexed——I desire may be sold by my Executors at such times, in such manner, and on such credits (if an equal, valid, and satisfactory distribution of the specific property cannot be made without) as, in their judgment shall be most conducive to the interest of the parties concerned, and the monies arising therefrom to be divided into twenty-three equal parts and applied as follows, viz:——

To William Augustine Washington, Elizabeth Spotswood, Jane Thornton, and the heirs of Ann Ashton; son and daughters of my deceased brother Augustine Washington, I give and bequeath four parts,——that is——one part to each of them.——

To Fielding Lewis, George Lewis, Robert

Lewis, Howell Lewis and Betty Carter, sons and daughters of my deceased sister Betty Lewis, I give and bequeath five other parts——one to each of them.——

To George Steptoe Washington, Laurence Augustine Washington, *Harriot* Parks, and the heirs of Thornton Washington, sons and daughters of my deceased brother Samuel Washington, I give and bequeath other four parts, one part to each of them.

To Corbin Washington, and the heirs of Jane Washington, son and daughter of my deceased brother, John Augustine Washington, I give and bequeath two parts——one part to each of them.——

To Samuel Washington, Francis Ball and Mildred Hammond, son and daughters of my brother Charles Washington, I give and bequeath three parts——one part to each of them.———And to George Fayette Washington, Charles Augustine Washington and Maria *W*ashington, sons and daughter of my deceased nephew, George Augustine *W*ashington, I give one other part—that is—to each a third of that part.

To Elizabeth Parke Law, Martha Parke Peter, and Eleanor Parke Lewis, I give and bequeath three other parts—that is—a part to each of them.

And to my nephews Bushrod *W*ashington and Lawrence Lewis,—and to my ward, the grand son of my wife, I give and bequeath one other part;—that is a third thereof to each of them—And if it

should so happen, that any of the persons whose names are here enumerated (unknown to me) should now be deceased, or should die before me, that in either of these cases, the heirs of such deceased person shall, notwithstanding, derive all the benefit of the bequest, in the same manner as if he or she was actually living at the time.

And by way of advice, I recommend it to my Executors not to be precipitate in disposing of the landed property (herein directed to be sold) if from temporary causes the sale thereof should be dull, experience having fully evinced that the price of land (especially above the Falls of the Rivers and on the Western Waters) have been progressively rising, and cannot be long checked in its increasing value,———and I particularly recommend it to such of the Legatees (under this clause of my will) as can make it convenient, to take each a share of my stock in the Potomac Company, in preference to the amount of what it might sell for; being thoroughly convinced myself, that no uses to which the money can be applied, will be so productive as the tolls arising from this navigation when in full operation (and this from the nature of things it must be 'ere long) and more especially if that of the Shenandoah is added thereto.—

The family vault, at Mount Vernon, requiring repairs, and being improperly situated besides, I desire that a new one of brick, and upon a larger

scale, may be built at the foot of what is commonly called the Vineyard Inclosure,—on the ground which is marked out.—In which my remains, with those of my deceased relatives (now in the old vault) and such others of my family as may *chuse* to be entombed there, may be deposited.—And it is my express desire that my corpse may be interred in a private manner, without parade or funeral oration.———

Lastly—I constitute and appoint my dearly beloved wife, Martha *W*ashington, my nephews, *W*illiam Augustine *W*ashington, Bushrod *W*ashington, George Steptoe *W*ashington, Samuel *W*ashington, and Lawrence Lewis, and my ward, George *W*ashington Parke Custis (when he shall have arrived at the age of twenty years) executrix and executors of this will and testament,—In the construction of which it will readily be perceived that no professional character has been consulted or has any agency in the draught—and that, although it has occupied many of my leisure hours to digest and to *through* it into its present form, it may notwithstanding, appear crude and incorrect—But having endeavored to be plain and explicit in all the Devisees—even at the expense of prolixity, perhaps of tautology, I hope and trust that no disputes will arise concerning them; but if contrary to expectation the case should be otherwise from the want of legal expression, or the usual technical terms, or because too much or too little has been

said on any of the devisees to be consonant with law, my will and direction expressly is, that all disputes (if unhappily any should arise) shall be decided by three impartial and intelligent men, known for their probity and good understanding; two to be chosen by the disputants, each having the choice of one, and the third by those two,—which three men thus chosen, shall, unfettered by law or legal constructions, declare their sense of the Testator's intention; and such decision is, to all intents and purposes to be as binding on the parties as if it had been given in the Supreme Court of the United States.

In witness of all and of each of these things herein contained I have set my hand and seal this ninth day of July, in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety* and of the Independence of the United States, the twenty-fourth.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

* The word "nine." was left out.

Schedule of Property comprehended in the foregoing will, which is directed to be sold, and some of it, conditionally, is sold; with descriptive and explanatory notes relative thereto:—

IN VIRGINIA

	ACRES.	PRICE.	DOLLARS.	
Loudoun County—				
Difficult Run	300		6,666	(*a*)
Loudoun & Fauquier—				
Ashby's Bent	2,481	$10	24,810	(*b*
Chattin's Run	885	8	7,080	
Berkley—				
So. Fork of Bullskin	1,600			
Head of Evan's M	453			
In Wormley's Line	183			
	2,236	20	44,720	(*c*)
Frederick—				
Bought from Mercer	571	20	11.420	(*d*)
Hampshire—				
On Potk. river above B	240	15	3,600	(*e*)
Gloucester—				
On North river	400 abt		3,600	(*f*)
Nansemond—				
Near Suffolk $\frac{1}{3}$ of 1119 acres	373	8	2,984	(*g*)
Great Dismal Swamp—				
My dividend thereof	abt		20,000	(*h*)

Ohio River—				
Round Bottom	587			
Little *Kanhawa*	2,314			
16 miles lower down	2,448			
Opposite Big Bent	4,395			
	9,774	10	97,440	(*i*)
Great Kanhawa—				
Near mouth, west	10,990			
East side above	7,276			
Mouth Cole river	2,000			
Opposite thereto	2,950			
Burning Spring	125			
	23,341		200,000	(*k*)
Maryland—				
Charles County	600	6	3,600	(*l*)
Montgomery County	519	12	6,228	(*m*)
Pennsylvania—				
Great Meadows	234	6	1,404	(*n*)
New York				
Mohawk river abt	1,000	6	6,000	(*o*)
North West Territory—				
On Little Miami	839			
Ditto	977			
Ditto	1,235			
	3,051	5	15,251	(*p*)
Kentucky—				
Rough Creek	3,000			
Ditto adjoin'g	2,000			
	5,000	2	10,000	(*q*)

Lots—viz:—

City of Washington.—

Two near *Capital sqr.* 634 Cost $963 and with *Buildgs*	15,000	(*r*)
Nos. 5, 12, 13 and 14, the 3 last water lots on the Eastern Branch in sqr. 667, containing together 34,438 sqr feet at 12 cts.	4,132	(*s*)

Alexandria—

Corner of Pitt and Prince sts. half an acre, laid out into buildings, 3 or 4 of which are let on ground rent at $3 per foot.	4,000	(*t*)

Winchester—

A lot in the town, of half an acre, and another on the commons of about 6 acres---supposed.	400	(*u*)

Bath or Warm Springs---

Two well situated and had buildings to the amount of £150.	800	(*v*)

STOCK.

United States 6 per cts.	3,746		
Do deferred 1,873	2,500		
3 prcts. 2,946			
		6,246	(*x*)
Potomac Company---			
24 shares cost ea. £100 *sterl'g*		10,666	(*y*)
James River Company---			
5 shares each cost $100		500	(*z*)
Bank of Columbia---			
170 shares---$40 each		6,800	(&)
Bank of Alexandria---besides 20 to the Free School 5		1,000	(&)

Stock—living—viz:—	
1 covering horse, 5 *coh* horses, 4 riding do., 6 brood mares, 20 working horses and mares, 2 covering jacks and 3 young ones, 10 she asses, 42 working mules, 15 younger ones, 329 head of horned cattle, 640 sheep, and a large stock of hogs the precise number unknown.	15,653
☞ My manager has estimated this live stock at £7,000, but I shall set it down in order to make *sd* sum at	
Aggregate amount:	$530,000

NOTES,

(*a*) This tract, for the size of it, is valuable; more for its situation than the quality of its soil, though that is good for farming, with a considerable portion of ground that might be very easily improved into meadow. It *lyes* on the great road from the city of Washington, Alexandria and Georgetown, to *Leesburgh* and Winchester, at Difficult bridge, nineteen miles from Alexandria, less from the City and Georgetown, and not more than three from Matildaville, at the Great Falls of Potomac. There is a valuable seat on the premises, and the whole is conditionally sold for the sum annexed in the schedule.

(*b*) What the selling prices of lands in the vicinity of these two tracts are, I know not; but compared with those above the ridge, and others below them, the value annexed will appear moderate, a less one would not obtain them from me.

(*c*) The surrounding land, not superior in soil, situation or properties of any sort, sell currently at from twenty to thirty dollars an acre. The lowest price is affixed to these.

(*d*) The observations made in the last note applies equally to this tract, being in the vicinity of them, and of similar quality, *altho* it *lyes* in another county.

(*e*) This tract, though small, is extremely valuable. It *lyes* on the Potomac river, about twelve miles above the town of Bath [or Warm Springs] and is in the shape of a horse shoe, the river running almost around it. Two hundred acres of it is rich low grounds; with a great abundance of the largest and finest walnut trees, which, with the produce of the soil might [by means of the improved navigation of the Potomac] be brought to a shipping port with more ease and at a smaller expense than that which is transported 30 miles, only by land.

(*f*) This tract is of second rate Gloucester low ground; it has no improvement thereon, but *lyes* on navigable water abounding in fish and oysters; it was received in payment of a debt [carrying interest] and valued in the year 1789, by an impartial gentleman *to* £800. N. B.---It has *lettely* been sold and there is due thereon a balance equal to what is annexed---the schedule.

(*g*) These 373 acres are the third part of undivided purchases made by the deceased Fielding Lewis, Thomas Walker and myself, on full conviction that they would become valuable. The land *lyes* on the road from Suffolk to Norfolk, touches [if I am not mistaken] some part of the navigable water of Nansemond river, borders on and comprehends part of the rich Dismal Swamp; is capable of great improvement, and from its

situation must become extremely valuable.

(*h*) This is an undivided interest which I held in the Great Dismal Swamp Company, containing 400 acres, with my part of the plantation and stock thereon, belonging to the Company in the said swamp

(*i*) These several tracts of land are of the first quality on the Ohio river, in the parts where they are situated; being almost, if not altogether, river bottoms.

The smallest of these tracts is actually sold at ten dollars an acre, but the consideration therefor not received, the rest are equally valuable, and will sell as high, especially that which *lyes* just below the little *Kanhawa*, and is opposite to a thick settlement on the west side of the river.

The four tracts have an aggregate breadth upon the river of sixteen miles, and is bounded thereby that distance.

(*k*) These tracts are situated on the Great *Kanhawa* river, and the first four are bounded thereby for more than forty miles. It is acknowledged by all who have seen them [and of the tract containing 10,990 acres which I have been on myself, I can assert] that there is no richer or more valuable land in all that region. They are conditionally sold for the sum mentioned in the schedule, that is $200,000, and if

the terms of that sale are not complied with, they will command considerably more. The tract of which the 125 acres is a moiety, was taken up by General Andrew Lewis and myself for and on account of a bituminous Spring which it contains, of so inflamable a nature as to burn as freely as spirits, and is as nearly difficult to extinguish.

(*l*) I am but little acquainted with this land, although I have once been on it. It was received [many years since] in discharge of a debt due to me from Daniel Janifer Adams, at the value annexed thereto, and must be worth more. It is very level, *lyes* near the river Potomac.

(*m*) This tract *lyes* about 30 miles above the City of Washington not far from *Kittoctan*. It is good farming land, and by those who are well acquainted with it, I am informed that it would sell at twelve or $15 pr. acre.

(*n*) This land is valuable on account of its local situation and other properties. It affords an exceeding good stand on Braddock's Road from Fort Cumberland to *Pittsburgh* and besides a fertile soil possesses a large quantity of natural meadow fit for the scythe. It is distinguished by the appellation of the Great Meadows, where the first action with the French in the year 1754 was fought.

(*o*) This is the moiety of about 2,000 acres,

which remains unsold of 6,071 acres on the Mohawk river [Montgomery Ct'y] in a patent granted to Daniel Coxe in the township of *Coxebourgh & Carolaca*, as will appear by deed from Marinus Willet and wife to George Clinton [late Governor of New York] and myself. The latter sales have been at six dollars an acre, and what remains unsold will *fetch* that or more.

(*p*) The quality of these lands and their situation may be known by the surveyor's certificates, which are filed along with the patents. They *lye* in the vicinity of Cincinnati, one tract near the mouth of the little Miami, another seven, and the third ten miles up the same. I have been informed that they will readily command more than they are estimated at.

(*q*) For the description of these tracts in detail, see General Spottswood's letters filed with the other papers relating to them. Besides the general good quality of the land, there is a valuable bank of iron ore thereon, which when the settlement becomes more populous [and settlers are moving that way very fast] will be found very valuable, as the rough creek, a branch of Green river affords ample water for furnaces and forges.

LOTS, Viz.:

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

(*r*) The two lots near the *Capital* in square

634, cost me $963 only, but in this price I was favoured on condition that I should build two brick houses, three storys high each; without this reduction, the selling price of those lots would have cost me about $1350.

These lots with the buildings thereon when completed, will stand me in $15,000 at least.

(*s*) Lots Nos. 5, 12,13 and 14, on the Eastern Branch, are advantageously situated on the water, and although many lots much less convenient, have sold a great deal higher, I will rate these at 12 cts. the square foot only.

ALEXANDRIA.

(*t*) For this lot, though unimproved, I have refused $3,500. It has since been laid off into proper sized lots for building on, three or four of which are let on ground rent forever at three dollars a foot on the street, and this price is asked for both fronts on Pitt and Princess streets.

WINCHESTER.

(*u*) As neither the lot in the town or common have any improvements on them it is not easy to fix a price, but as both are well situated it is presumed the price annexed to them in the schedule is a reasonable *valu*.

BATH.

(*v*) The lots in Bath [two adjoining] cost me to the best of my recollection, between fifty and

sixty pounds, 20 years ago and the buildings thereon, £150 more. Whether property there has increased or decreased in it's value, and in what condition the houses are, I am ignorant, but suppose they are not valued too high,

(x) These are the sums which are actually funded, and though no more in the aggregate than $7566, stand me in at least ten thousand pounds in Virginia money, being the amount of bonded and other debts due to me, and discharged during the war, when money had depreciated in that ratio and was so settled by public authority.

(y) The value annexed to these shares is what they have actually cost me, and is the price affixed by law, and although the present selling price is under par, my advice to the Legatees [for whose benefit they are intended, especially those who can afford to *lye* out of the money] is that each should take and hold one; there being a moral certainty of a great and increasing profit arising from them in the course of a few years.

(z) It is supposed that the shares in the James River Company must also be productive. But of this I can give no decided opinion for want of more accurate information.

(&) These are nominal prices of the Shares of the Banks of Alexandria and Columbia, the selling prices vary according to circumstances but

as the stock usually divided from eight to ten per cent per annum, they must be worth the former, at least, so long as the Banks are conceived to be secure, although circumstances may sometimes below it.

The value of the live stock depends more upon the quality than quantity of the different species of it and this again upon the demand, and judgment or fancy of purchasers.

Mount Vernon, 9 July 1799.

G. WASHINGTON.

At a court held for the county of Fairfax the 20th day of January, 1800, this last will and testament of George Washington, deceased, late President of the United States of America, was presented in court by George Steptoe Washington, Samuel Washington, and Lawrence Lewis, three of the executors therein named, who made oath thereto, and the same being proved by the oaths of Charles Little, Charles Simms and Ludwell Lee, to be in the true hand writing of the said testator, as also the *scedule* thereto annexed, and the said will, being sealed and signed by him, is on motion, ordered to be recorded. And the said executors having given security and performed what the laws require, a certificate is granted them for obtaining a probate thereof in due form.

TESTE: G. DENEALE, Cl. Fx.

R. L. H. fo. 1.—Exd. by G. DENEALE, Cl. Fx.

MRS. WASHINGTON'S WILL.

In the Name of God, Amen.

I, Martha Washington, of Mount Vernon, in the county of Fairfax, being of sound mind, and capable of disposing of my worldly estate, do make, ordain and declare this to be my last will and testament, hereby revoking all other wills and testaments by me heretofore made.

Imprimis.—It is my desire that all my just debts may be punctually paid, and that as speedily as the same can be done.

Item.—I give and devise to my nephew, Bartholomew Dandridge, and his heirs, my lot in the town of Alexandria, situate on Pitt and Cameron streets, devised to me by my late husband, George Washington, deceased.

Item.—I give and bequeath to my four nieces, Martha W. Dandridge, Mary Dandridge, Frances Lucy Dandridge, and Frances Henley, the debt of two thousand pounds due from Lawrence Lewis and secured by his bond, to be equally divided between them or such of them as shall be alive at my death, and to be paid to them respectively on the days of their respective marriage or arrival at the

age of twenty-one years, whichsoever shall first happen, together with all the interest on said debt remaining unpaid at the time of my death; and in case the whole or any part of said principal sum of two thousand pounds shall be paid to me during my life, then it is my will that so much money be raised out of my estate as shall be equal to what I have received of the said principal debt, and distributed among my four nieces aforesaid as herein has been bequeathed; and it is my meaning that the interest accruing after my death, on the said sum of two thousand pounds, shall belong to my said nieces, and be equally divided between them, or such of them as shall be alive at the time of my death, and be paid annually for their respective uses, until they receive their shares of the principal.

Item.—I give and bequeath to my grandson, George Washington Parke Custis, all the silver plate of every kind of which I shall die possessed, together with the two large plated coolers, the four small plated coolers, with bottle castors, and a pipe of wine, if there be one in the house at the time of my death, also the set of Cincinnati tea and table china, the bowl that has a ——— in it, the fine old china jars which usually stand on the chimney-piece in the new room; also, all the family pictures of every sort, and the pictures painted by his sister, and two

small screens, worked one by his sister, and the other a present from Kitty Brown; also his choice of prints; also, the two girandoles and lustres that stand on them; also, the new bedstead which I caused to be made in Philadelphia, together with the bed, mattresses, bolsters and pillows, and the white dimity curtains belonging thereto; also, two other beds with bolsters and pillows, and the white dimity window curtains in the new room; also, the iron chest and the desk in my closet which belonged to my first husband; also, all my books of every kind, except the large bible and prayer book; also, the set of teachina that was given me by Mr. Van Braam every piece having M. W. on it.

Item.—I give and bequeath to my grand daughter Martha Peter, my writing table and the seat to it standing in my chamber; also, the print of General Washington hanging in the passage.

Item.—I give and bequeath to my grand daughter Elizabeth Parke Law, the dressing table and glass that stands in the chamber called the yellow room, and General Washington's picture, painted by Trumbull.

Item.—I give and bequeath to my grand daughter Eleanor Parke Lewis, the large looking glass in the front parlor, and any other looking glass which she may choose; also, one of the new side-board tables in the new room; also twelve chairs with green bottoms, to be selected by herself; also, the marble table in the garret; also, the two prints of the Dead Soldier, a print of the Washington Family, in a box in

the garret, and the great chair standing in my chamber; also, all the plated ware not heretofore otherwise bequeathed; also, all the sheets, table linen, napkins, towels, pillow cases, remaining in the house at the time of my death; also, three bed and bedsteads, curtains, bolsters and pillows for each bed, such as she shall choose, and not herein particularly otherwise bequeathed, together with counterpanes and a pair of blankets for each bed; also, all the wine glasses and decanters of every kind, and all the blue and white china in common use.

Item.—It is my will and desire that all the wine in bottles in the vaults be equally divided between my grand daughters and grand son, to each of whom I bequeath ten guineas to buy a ring for each.

Item.—It is my will and desire that Anna Maria Washington, the daughter of my niece, be put into handsome mourning at my death, at the expense of my estate; and I bequeath to her ten guineas to buy a ring.

Item.—I give and bequeath to my neighbor, Mrs. Elizabeth Washington, five guineas, to get something in remembrance of me.

Item.—I give and bequeath to Mrs. David Stuart, five guineas to buy her a ring.

Item.—I give and bequeath to Benjamin Lincoln Lear, one hundred pound specie, to be vested in funded stock of the United States, immediately after my decease, and to stand in his name as his property,

which investment my executors are to cause to be made.

Item—When the vestry of Truro Parish shall buy a glebe, I devise, will and bequeath that my executors shall pay one hundred pounds to them in aid of the purchase, provided the said purchase, be made in my life-time, or within three years after my decease.

Item.—It is my will and desire that all the rest and residue of my estate, of whatever kind and description, not herein specifically devised or bequeathed, shall be sold by the executors of this, my last will, for ready money, as soon after my decease as the same can be done, and that the proceeds thereof together with all the money in the house and the debts due to me (the debts due from me and the legacies herein bequeathed being first satisfied,) shall be invested by my executors in eight per cent stock of the funds of United States, and shall stand on the Book inthe name of my executors in their character of executors of my will; and it is my desire that the interest thereof shall be applied to the education of Bartholomew Henley and Samuel Henley, the two youngest sons of my sister Henley, and also the education of John Dandridge son of my deceased nephew, John Dandridge, so that they may be severally fitted and accomplished in some useful trade; and to each of them, who shall have lived to finish his education, or to reach the age of twenty-one years,

I give and bequeath one hundred pounds, to set him up in his trade.

Item.—My debts and legacies being paid, and t education of Bartholomew Henley, Samuel Henley and John Dandridge, aforesaid, being completed, or they being all dead before the completion thereof, it is my will and desire that all my estates and interests in whatever form existing, whether in money, funded stock, or any other species of property, shall be equally divided among all the persons herein after named, who shall be living at the time that interest of the funded stock shall cease to be applicable in pursuance of my will herein before expressed, to the education of my nephews. Baartholomew Henley, Samuel Henley and John Dandridge, namely: among Anna Maria Washington, daughter of my niece, and John Dandridge, son of my nephew, and all my great grand children living at the time that the interest of the said funded stock shall cease to be applicable to the education of the said B. Henley, S. Henley, and John Dandridge, and the interest shall cease to be so applied when all of them shall die before arriving at the age of twenty-one years, or those living shall have finished their education or have arrived at the age of twenty-one years, and so long as any one of the three lives who has not finished his education or arrived to the age of twenty-one years, the division of the said residue is to be deferred, and no longer.

Lastly.—I nominate and appoint my grand son, George Washington Parke Custis, my nephews, Julius B. Dandridge and Bartholomew Dandridge, and my son in law, Thomas Peter, executors of this, my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty-second day of September, in the year eighteen hundred.

MARTHA WASHINGTON. [SEAL.]

Sealed, signed, acknowledged and delivered as her last will and testament in the presence of the subscribing witnesses, who have been requested to subscribe the same as such, in her presence.

ROGER FARRELL,
WILLIAM SPENCER,
LAWRENCE LEWIS,
MARTHA PETER.

March 4, 1802.

I give to my grand son, George Washington Parke Custis, my mulatto man Elish, that I bought of Mr. Butler Washington, to him and his heirs forever.

M. WASHINGTON.

THE TITLE.

Mt. Vernon was originally a 5000 acre grant assigned to John Washington the great grand father of GEORGE, who together with Nicholas Spencer patented it from Lord Culpeper in 1670. It descended from him to his son LAWRENCE who in turn left it to his son AUGUSTINE the father of GEORGE. It was left by him to LAWRENCE and was called in his will "The Hunting Creek Estate." Lawrence in 1743 built the main Building and gave it its present name in honor of Admiral Vernon with whom he had served in the battle of Carthagena in 1741. At his death he left it to his infant daughter providing that in the event of her death it should go to his brother GEORGE. By Washington's will it went to his wife during her life and afterwards to his nephew Judge BUSHROD WASHINGTON a Justice of the Supreme Court of the U. S., he was appointed by President Adams. This gentleman died in 1829 aged 70 and left the place to his nephew JOHN AUGUSTINE who dying in 1832 left the estate to his widow Mrs. JANE, by whom it was left to her son JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON ESQ., by whom in 1837 it was sold to the MT. VERNON LADIES ASSOCIATION OF THE UNION for $200,000, Congress having previously refused to purchase the place.

MISCELLANEOUS RECOLLECTIONS

During the war of 1812 when the Britishfleet passed Mount Vernon on their way up the Potomac they stopped opposite the place and fired a salute in respect to the honored dead.

WASHINGTGN'S LIBRARY consisting of over 12,00 volumns, 100 maps, charts &c,were appraised by his executors at $2,600.

WASHINGTONS mother Mrs. Mary Washington, died August 25. 1789. Congress determined to erect a monument over her remains, and in 1833, the corner stone was laid by President Jackson, with great ceremonies, and yet to this day it has never been completed, and stands like the unfinished shaft at Washington, a disgrace to the nation, and an emblem of their ingratitude.

The Poters Lodge, three quarters of a mile distant, have been rebuilt at a cost of $1,000, through the exertions of the Vice Regent from Wisconsin. It was at this gate that a covalcade of citizens of Alexandria met Washington and escorted him to town when he left Mt. Vernon to assume the Presidential chair.

Washingtsn's Bier spoken of by Lossing was destroyed by fire when the Alexandria Museum was consumed in 1871, when the Old Market was burnt.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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